

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER  
SEP 15 2006

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 19, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1 through 4 and objected to claims 5 through 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In applicant's response filed on March 7, 2006, the applicant attempted to meet the Examiner's rejection by amending claim 4 with additional limitations and leaving claims 5 through 7 dependent upon claim 4.

In the present Office Action mailed July 31, 2006, which application was marked Final, the Examiner rejected all the claims pending for examination, namely claims 1 and 3-7.

In the amendments included with the present response, the applicant has now canceled claims 1 through 3 amended claim 4 to meet the objections raised by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action. In particular, line 20 of claim has been corrected to be the "first tubular section".

Further, the Examiner objected to claim 4 as being unpatentable over the Hines Reference because the applicant, in the Examiner's view, failed to disclose the tubular sections as "three separate sections". The applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner because the first, second and third tubular sections are set forth in the claim as separate elements and therefore are inherently separate. However, to accommodate the

Examiner, the applicant has inserted the word "separate" before the second and third tubular sections in claim 4. With these corrections, it is believed that claim 4 is allowable as meeting the Examiner's objection.

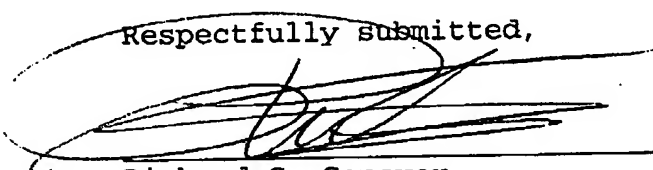
The McBride reference is only cited as showing a foam element, element 20. Given the distinctiveness of the combination of elements in amended claim 4, it is respectfully believed that amended claim 4 is not obvious in view of the Hinds and McBride references.

The applicant further amended claim 4 to include the elements of claims 6 and 7, which were indicated as being allowable in the Office Action dated June 29, 2005 and claims 6 and 7 have now been canceled. Since it is believed that claim 4 is now allowable, claim 5, which is dependent on claim 4, would also be allowable.

In view of the foregoing reasons, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is earnestly requested.

DATED: September 15, 2006  
Bozeman, Montana

Respectfully submitted,



Richard C. Conover  
Reg. No. 26,363  
104 E. Main St., Suite 404  
P.O. Box 1329  
Bozeman, Montana 59711-1329  
Tel. No. (406) 587-4240  
Attorney for Applicant